

FCC Commissioners
The Federal Communications Commission RE: Docket 04-435
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear FCC Commissioners ,

I am writing to voice my support for the FCC's proposal to relax the restrictions on the use of cell phones on airplanes in flight.

There is no technical reason not to allow cellular terminals on airplanes with the use of picocells (since picocells would prevent interference with the plane's systems). Many people also want to use their new smartphones and PDA phones to play games, edit documents, read e-books, or do email or web, without having to bring along a laptop computer. Currently there is no allowance to do this even if you turn off the wireless portion of the device.

Most people being short sighted have cited that people using cell phones on the plane would be annoying. They forget that there are already seat-back airphones with which they can be annoyed. The high cost keeps their use to a minimum, and with the use of picocells, cell phone use would also be expensive and discourage use for frivolous conversations.

Many people have cited safety concerns, but they are relying on a technical FCC rule. They should be lobbying the FAA, TSA, NTSB, or individual airlines to provide safety related rules.

Also, many more devices now are including cellular radios built-in. Many laptops are going to be including built-in cellular capability over the next several months. Many PDAs already do. There are cell phones that look like cameras or MP3 players. Flight attendants cannot be expected to police the use of these devices if they can't tell they have cellular capability, and in effect they cannot enforce the cell phone ban if it remains in the future.

Also coming are in-flight Wi-Fi services like Boeing's Connexion which allow people to use the internet. These have already been tested with VoIP software to make phone calls in-flight, as well as allowing instant messenger or other real-time chat applications. This nullifies any concerns about the use of cell phones for terrorist communication since it simply provides another method.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kory Ball
5903 SE 2nd Ct
Renton, Washington 98059

cc:
Senator Patty Murray
Senator Maria Cantwell
Representative Dave Reichert